

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
19 March 1986CONTRAS
DALLAS, TX**FILE ONLY**

A Texas congressman said CIA analysts told him the only way to settle problems between the United States and Nicaragua would be to topple the Sandinista government.<

Rep. Jim Chapman, D-Sulphur Springs, said three CIA officials who briefed him Tuesday contradicted key assurances President Reagan has offered Congress in his efforts to get \$100 million in aid for Nicaraguan rebels fighting the Sandinistas.<

At a briefing Tuesday, CIA officials said the \$70 million in military aid and the \$30 million in non-lethal assistance Reagan wants to provide the rebels during 18 months should be seen as part of a "long-term military commitment," Chapman said.<

"The president is misleading the American people when he doesn't tell them that," Chapman told The Dallas Morning News.<

The congressman also said CIA officials made it clear that "they are convinced there will be no diplomatic solution in Nicaragua," although the president describes aiding the rebels as a means of pressuring the Sandinista government to negotiate.<

The House is to vote on the president's proposal Thursday. Chapman is one of several congressmen who say they are undecided on the issue.<

In addition to the private CIA briefing he was given, Chapman was among 14 House members invited to the White House Tuesday for a 50-minute session with the president.<

Reagan and key administration officials have characterized the aid as the amount necessary to give the rebels means to defend themselves against the Sandinista government's sophisticated Soviet weapons.<

Chapman said the president repeated his assertion at the White House meeting that he sees the Contras as the means to force the Sandinistas to negotiate a diplomatic solution in the country.<